

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 20
HELD AT THE ANTELOPE VALLEY
TRANSIT AUTHORITY

December 14, 2023
11:30 o'clock, A.M.

The Board of Directors of County Sanitation District No. 20 of Los Angeles County met in regular session.

There were present: Richard Loa, Director from Palmdale
Kathryn Barger, Alternate Director from Los Angeles County
Laura Bettencourt, Chairperson, Director from Palmdale

Absent: None

Also present: Kimberly S. Christensen, Secretary to the Board
Brant Dveirin, District Counsel

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT The Chairperson announced this was the time for any questions or comments by members of the public.

The following individuals addressed the Board:

Mr. Brandon Calandri stated that he represents local farmers with 8,000 acres of agricultural production using groundwater. He and the local farmers are adamantly opposed to the Palmdale Water District project, which he claimed has challenges for which they cannot overcome. He is very concerned about possible degradation of the groundwater related to any potential failures in the treatment process. There are alternative ways to meet the water needs of future growth without risking any issues with the aquifer, affecting farming businesses, or utilizing tax dollars. Other options are available and the City needs to be educated on what those options are.

RE: DIRECTOR FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY A certificate from the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles was presented to the Secretary certifying that pursuant to Section 7 of the Rules of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath assumed the Office of Chairmanship of the Board of Supervisors at 9:30 a.m., on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, to serve in such capacity until December 4, 2024, or until the election or succession of her successor, which automatically places Supervisor Horvath on the Board of Directors of this District.

Upon motion of Director Barger, duly seconded and unanimously carried, the certificate was accepted and ordered filed.

RE: MINUTES Upon motion of Director Barger, duly seconded and unanimously carried, the minutes of the special meeting held November 9, 2023, were approved.

RE: DISTRICT EXPENSES The following expenses for the month of September 2023, were presented and upon motion of Director Barger, duly seconded and unanimously carried, were approved:

Local District Expenses:	
Operations & Maintenance	\$1,289,547
Capital	630,654
Legal	840
Allocated Expenses:	
Joint Administration	96,660
Technical Support	115,678
Legal	6,505
Total Expenses	<u>\$2,139,884</u>

RE: WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT
DIGESTER CLEANING SERVICES AT
PALMDALE WATER RECLAMATION
PLANT - CONFIRM PURCHASE ORDER
TO NATIONAL PLANT SERVICES

The Chief Engineer and General Manager advised that the Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) utilizes anaerobic digestion to treat and stabilize solids generated in the wastewater treatment process. The plant has five digesters that over time require cleaning due to the accumulation of grit, debris, and other material/mineral

scaling that occurs within the digester and its appurtenant piping. In November 2023, a purchase order in the amount of \$84,260 was issued to National Plant Services (National Plant) for cleaning one of the plant's digesters and clearing a blockage found in its outlet piping, which had prevented the digester from being placed in service. Based on past cleaning practices, it was estimated that the cleaning and blockage clearing work could be completed in four days. However, due to the extensive accumulation of grit that had settled and solidified at the bottom of the digester, it took 10 days to complete the work, at a total cost of \$195,650. This item is consistent with the Districts' Guiding Principles to protect financial and facility assets through prudent investment and maintenance programs; and commitment to operational excellence (protection of public health and the environment, regulatory compliance, and cost effectiveness). A recommendation was made for the Board to confirm the issuance of a purchase order to National Plant for digester cleaning services at the Palmdale WRP.

In response to Director Barger, the Chief Engineer and General Manager advised that cleaning of the digesters will occur more frequently.

Upon motion of Director Barger, duly seconded and unanimously carried, the Board confirmed the issuance of a purchase order to National Plant Services, in the amount of \$111,390 for digester cleaning services at the Palmdale Water Reclamation Plant.

RE: JOINT ADMINISTRATION
PURCHASING POLICY - ADOPT

The Chief Engineer and General Manager advised that as part of the continuing effort to ensure the Districts follows best practices as it relates to financial matters,

revisions to the Purchasing Policy are being recommended. The Districts' Purchasing Policy establishes rules for purchase of materials, supplies, equipment, services, and construction projects. Proposed revisions to the policy clarify several sections and modify the provisions for emergency orders and contracts. At the November Board meeting, staff was directed to make changes to notification requirements related to emergency actions specified in Section 3.3 to reduce the threshold for Board Chairperson notification and concurrence. The originally proposed threshold was \$500,000 and it was reduced to \$200,000 for all operations outside of the Joint Outfall System. These changes are included in the revised Purchasing Policy that was attached to the agenda. This item is consistent with the Districts' Guiding Principles of commitment to fiscal responsibility and prudent financial stewardship; and to plan for both short-term and long-term needs to minimize the need for significant rate increases. A recommendation was made that the Purchasing Policy be approved and adopted.

Upon motion of Director Barger, duly seconded and unanimously carried, the Purchasing Policy was considered, approved, and adopted.

RE: STATUS REPORT/DIRECTOR COMMENTS
ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

Budget. The Chief Engineer and General Manager advised that preliminary budget rates will be brought to the Board in January.

Palmdale/Lancaster Water Reclamation Plants - Solar Projects. The Chief Engineer and General Manager advised that a solar project update and proposed agreement will be provided in January.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson.



LAURA BETTENCOURT
Chairperson

ATTEST:



KIMBERLY S. CHRISTENSEN
Secretary

/ee